

**SYSTEM OR METHOD FOR CLASSIFYING IMAGES****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system or method (collectively “classification system”) is disclosed for classifying sensor images into one of several pre-defined classifications. Mathematical moments relating to various features or attributes in the sensor image are used to populated a vector of attributes, which are then compared to a corresponding template vector of attribute values. The template vector contains values for known classifications which are preferably predefined. By comparing the two vectors, various votes and confidence metrics are used to ultimately select the appropriate classification. In some embodiments, preparation processing is performed before loading the attribute vector with values. Image segmentation is often desirable. The performance of heuristics to adjust for environmental factors such as lighting can also be desirable. One embodiment of the system is to prevent the deployment of an airbag when the occupant in the seat is a child, a rear-facing infant seat, or when the seat is empty.